News release

Summer soaker

26 August 2004

Weather records have already been broken for many areas of the UK, even though figures for the end of August are still to arrive at the Met Office. This wet month will bring to a close a mild, but very wet summer 2004.

With six days to go, summer 1912 seems certain to have been wetter than 2004 for the much of the UK, but specific areas such as the Midlands, northern and eastern England and parts of Scotland have had around double their usual August rainfall. Some areas have seen tremendous amounts of rain on a local scale sending records tumbling.

Forecasters at the Met Office have issued 100 Flash Weather Warnings across the UK so far this August. This is part of the National Severe Weather Warning Service that the organisation runs for the country, helping emergency services and local authorities prepare for severe weather.

Some of the wettest areas in the UK so far have been:

- Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway: the wettest place in the UK with 281 mm so far in August (220% of monthly average)
- Bedford currently has the highest anomaly for rainfall; 338% of monthly average for August with 178 mm
- Leuchars in Fife has recorded its wettest August since records began in 1922; 206 mm up to 23 August; 331% of monthly average
- Brize Norton in Oxfordshire has recorded its wettest month on record with 155 mm. (Records go back to 1951)

There is, however, some good news. Met Office forecasters are promising much drier weather moving in over the weekend with temperatures rising and more sunshine breaking through for next week.

Some of the major weather events of the summer:

June

8th	Cambridge reached 31.5 °C - the hottest day of the Summer
22nd - 24th	One of the deepest depressions ever recorded in June, swept across the UK bringing strong winds of over 60 m.p.h. to many areas
30th	Kinloss in north-east Scotland had its wettest June since records began in 1951

July

1st	Numerous funnel clouds reported across the UK through the month, including Castle Espie in Northern Ireland
2nd	Intense thunderstorms gave 42 mm in 24 hours at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire
8th	Wittering, Cambridgeshire saw 108 mm of rain in 24 hours
17th	Marble-sized hail reported in Essex during violent thunderstorms
18th	Holbeach, Lincolnshire reported 25.2 mm of rain in one hour
22nd	Scampton in Lincolnshire reported 28.6 mm of rain in one hour
29th	Central London recorded 30.1 °C

August

3rd	High Wycombe recorded 42.4 mm in one hour
9th	Wittering recorded 90.8 mm of rain in 24 hours
16th	Otterham, near Boscastle in Cornwall saw 200.4 mm of rain in 24 hours
16th	Lesnewth, near Boscastle in Cornwall recorded 64.8 mm of rain in one hour
20th	Bedford recorded 41.8 mm of rain in one hour

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